



## Orkney Partnership Board

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2023 via Teams

### 1. Attendance and apologies

#### Facilitating partners

Orkney Islands Council  
NHS Orkney  
Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Cllr James Stockan (Chair)  
Meghan McEwen (Vice Chair)  
Graeme Harrison

#### Participating partners

Orkney College UHI  
Skills Development Scotland  
HITRANS  
Integration Joint Board  
Historic Environment Scotland  
Visit Scotland

Claire Kemp  
Anthony Standing  
Cllr David Dawson  
Issy Grieve  
Dorothy Hoskins  
Cheryl Chapman

#### Co-opted partners

Orkney Housing Association Ltd.  
Voluntary Action Orkney

Craig Spence  
Morven Brooks

#### By invitation

Scottish Government  
Highlands & Islands Enterprise  
Orkney Islands Council

Joe Brown  
Francesca Couperwhite  
Stuart Allison

#### In attendance

Orkney Islands Council  
Orkney Islands Council  
Orkney Islands Council

Cllr Heather Woodbridge  
Karen Greaves  
Anna Whelan

The Orkney Partnership

George Vickers (Secretary)

#### Apologies

Orkney Islands Council  
Community Justice Partnership  
Scottish Ambulance Service  
NatureScot

Oliver Reid  
Stephen Brown  
Andrew Fuller  
Dave Mackay

James began by reminding the group that the Board requires a new chairperson which will be decided at the next meeting. He felt that the delivery group chairs should be elected at the same time and the interim arrangements would remain in place till then. James thanked Issy Grieve for her work and effort being chair of the IJB.

## **2. Draft minutes of the meeting of the Board 14 December 2022**

2.1. Minutes were approved

## **3. Matters arising**

3.1. George stated that there were two improvement plans that came out of the Improvement Service. One is to have a new induction process to ensure everyone knows their role and this will be rolled out over the next few months.

3.2. The second delivery plan was to look at early responses to ensure of early interventions. A meeting will take place with Stephen Brown to consider how to best take this forward. This will be reported back to the June Executive Group and Board meetings.

3.3. James asked that a list of the organisations be circulated stating who can vote for which roles. He also suggested holding the June meeting face to face.

## **4. Report from the Executive Group (EG) Chair**

4.1. Executive Group met 7 March and the written report has been circulated.

4.2. Community Engagement report to be taken to the Board in June or September.

### **4.3. First Responders Short Life Working Group**

The group met last Friday, and the written report has been circulated. The report proposes that in the interim IJB provide funding to level up the service to the isles for 12 months and after that the Board would request that The Scottish Government provide ring fenced funding to provide that service into the future.

Issy noted that although there have been discussions at the IJB, nothing has been put to the IJB in terms of funding. Meghan McEwen felt that the mapping exercise document circulated was useful and it would be helpful to also include the populations of each island. Joe Brown is happy to assist and can find out who is best to speak to in the Scottish Government. No decisions were made on the recommendations in the written report.

## **5. TOP Support Package 2023/24**

5.1. Anna explained that this is a noting report as the facilitating partners have met and agreed the package attached.

## **6. Orkney Community Plan/LOIP 2023/30**

6.1. The draft circulated is the final draft for approval and adoption from 1 April 2023.

- 6.2. Cost of living delivery group and Sustainable Development Delivery group are underway. A Local Equality preliminary workshop has been held with another one scheduled for May and from this a delivery group should form.
- 6.3. Changes from the consultation were to have Scotland Outlook 2030 added which has been done.
- 6.4. Issy asked if there is flexibility in the 5-7 year plan to move things to a more critical position if the need arises to which Anna replied that the plan would be reviewed every year and can be amended by the Board at any time.
- 6.5. Issy stated that having seen the report for public health, there are some major concerns and asked the Community Planning Partnership to pay particular attention to these.
- 6.6. Craig Spence wished to record thanks to Anna for pulling together such a good quality document. James echoed this along with thanks to George and the team.
- 6.7. James also wished to thank Meghan for chairing Horizon Scanning.
- 6.8. The Board are happy for the LOIP to be adopted and approved.

## **7. Appointment of chairs to the new delivery groups**

### **7.1. Appoint chair to the Cost of Living Task Force (Delivery Group)**

Craig Spence is happy to continue in the interim to the next meeting.

### **7.2. Appoint chair to the Sustainable Development Delivery Group**

Stuart Allison happy to continue in the interim. Khristopher Leask is happy to vice chair.

### **7.3. Appoint chair to the Local Equality Delivery Group**

Heather Woodbridge happy to chair in the interim.

## **AOCB**

A few members had indicated that they need to leave this meeting early, so James took the opportunity, while everyone was still in attendance, to bring forward his AOCB.

James informed the group that himself and the Chief Executive Oliver Reid were called to a meeting last week with the Deputy First Minister for Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government with regards to the Single Islands Authority Model. OIC were invited to explore this with the community several years ago but it was placed on hold by the Scottish Government. The Cabinet would now like OIC to pursue this again however, James and Oliver feel that waiting for a new First Minister and cabinet to be established before moving forward with this, would be the best course of action.

## **8. Delivery Group and Task Force reports**

### **8.1. Sustainable Recovery Delivery Group – Including Community Wealth Building Workshop**

A written report had been circulated and Stuart Allison spoke to the main report and George Vickers spoke to the report on the Community Wealth Building Workshop 28 February 2023.

Anna noted that the Scottish Government have opened a consultation on the Community Wealth Building Bill and has suggested drawing up a response from the Partnership Board.

Skills planning is being led by Anthony Standing and SDS. Nick Blyth, Climate Change Strategy Officer has been appointed now and will attend the next meeting to help with the delivery plan.

Issy referred to point 4 in the SRDG action plan with regards to Housing and noted that it was disappointing that, according to the local press, OIC had refused new flats in Kirkwall. James added that although he is not on the planning committee, he was aware that it was a legal issue that led to the refusal and that although there was a way around it, the developer chose for it to go before the committee instead of making the changes to their plans.

Issy also made note regarding the Aspire visions. Anna replied by stating the Aspire principles are included in the new LOIP under sustainable development.

### **8.2. Community Wellbeing Delivery Group**

Francesca told members that the Community Wellbeing Delivery Group held its final meeting on 9 February. All outstanding actions were re-assigned to other groups. The group had 2 key messages to bring to the Board.

- Importance of wellbeing and the need to embed this in delivery groups going forward.
- Allocating of resources quickly when events occur.

The group wanted to thank Gail Anderson for all of her work and contributions.

### **8.3. Connectivity Delivery Group**

Graeme told members that the group met at the end of February and a brief written report was circulated. The main message is that there is still ongoing work. Going forward OIC is the lead with this, but HIE is there to help with pressing the case to Government. The group have recommended that at least once a year, the Board considers digital and transport connectivity to find ways to accelerate the issues.

James thanked the Board for putting this as one of our ambitions. Heather, James and Oliver had a meeting regarding vessel replacements and will be looking at transportation rather than ferries. Other modes of transport will be tested. Graeme also noted that contact with the new cabinet needs to be kept open to ensure timescales don't slip with digital connectivity.

#### **8.4. Cost of Living Task Force**

Craig Spence told members that this group was established to be a short life working group of the Community Wellbeing Delivery Group but has been redesignated as a full delivery group. There has been significant and focused work carried out. The group have amalgamated all of the child poverty strategy actions, food dignity report that was done by VAO, and they've also been inputting to and will consider the upcoming fuel poverty strategy. They have identified 3 main areas to focus on.

- Reduce cost of living for Orkney households
- Building a pathway of preventative, compassionate and cash-first services in Orkney
- Making progress towards transformative, economic, and social change in Orkney.

The group are meeting this week for last time as short-term working group to establish gaps or areas that are needing extra effort in the community. Meghan felt it would be good to have the voice of lived experience fed into this to which Craig replied that this is a good point and is active however, the group is welcome to new ideas on how to do this.

#### **9. Resourcing the work of TOP**

Scott Robertson joined the meeting

George summarised his report that has been circulated around the group prior to the meeting. The Board agreed to adding the recommended text into the terms of reference to make it clearer how the process works.

#### **10. Aspire Orkney Ltd**

A follow up report on Aspire was circulated prior to the meeting and Anna explained that it is just to be noted. The Board are happy to note this.

#### **11. Any other business**

No AOB

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

**12.1.** 23 June 2023

The meeting closed at 15:15